JL:CBS-Ford — Last night I did take in Mondale's speech. I have not looked at the convention coverage. I was pleasantly surprised that he ended the political moratorium on the hasty Ford pardon (as I was by Carter's comparing the freeing of bog crooks with the jailing of poor ones). One of the CBS floor reporters found Mondale afterward and was questioning him about what he had said. Mondale began to give what for what was aired was a straight-forward statement. Not on CBS. It was cut off. Cronkite could be heard saying he wanted it, too, after the cut, which left a void screen. Instead they actually aired earlier Democratic paid ads, with a line describing them as no voice did. So, CBS did not let its audience see or hear what the Dem. v.p.nominee had to say about Nixon, Ford or the Ford pardon, whatever it might have been. I did not look for a long time afterward, not through Carter's speech. But to the beginning of the Carter speech there was no Mondale videotape of what he'd said. Nor was there any claim of technical problems. It is hard to believe that with all those reporters and all those partoables and perfect reception they could not have had better coerage than canned puffs. I say this because I believe there is an inference of an upper-level intrusion that threw all planning off. ...Cronkite slipped up on the official CBS line. There was a vote for Dan Schorr. In reporting it Cronkite called him "our calleague." The unseen and unheard colleague.

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